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Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 RSC-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

PRS-01 CPR-01 EUR-12 A-01 OPR-02 USIE-00 AGR-10

AID-05 EB-06 IO-10 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 SAM-01

NEA-10 /082 W
---------- 117338
O 051045Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7906

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 15239

SECTO 470

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF DINNER TOASTS BETWEEN PRESIDENT LEONE
AND SECRETARY KISSINGER AT QUIRINALE
PALACE, ROME, ON NOVEMBER 4, 1974

NSCE FOR GENERAL SCONWCROFT AND NESSEN

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF TOAST BY ITALIAN PRESIDENT LEONE: QUOTE: SINCE THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING MR. KISSINGER, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THE CARDS BETWEEN US ARE ON THE TABLE, THERE IS NO BLUFFING, SO IT IS USELESS TO PREPARE SPEECHES WHICH WON'T BE READ AND THEN THROWN IN THE WASTE BASKET -- ONE SPEAKS EXTEMPORANEOUSLY. MR. KISSINGER PLAYED THE LAST TRICK UPON ME WHEN HE GAVE ME AND FOREIGN MINISTER MORO A WONDERFUL LUNCH. HE HAD SENT IN A DRAFT OF HIS SPEECH, BUT LATER HE DROPPED IT AND SPOKE ALSO OF OTHER THINGS NOT ON THE DRAFT. BUT, THANK GOD, HAVING SOME EXPERIENCE AS A LAWYER, I SUCCEEDED IN ANSWERING HIM ON THE SAME PLANE. SO THIS TIME WE HAVN'T EVEN TRIED TO PLAY THE TRADITIONAL RESPECTABLE DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE OF EXCHANGING SPEECHES, REFINING
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THE ADJECTIVES, CHANGING THE COMMAS AND MODIFYING THE

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PHRASES. AND THEN, HOW COULD ONE FOLLOW THE RULE, EVEN SUCH A NOBLE RULE, WHEN THE SUBJECT OF THE MEETING IS MR. KISSINGER WHO REVOLUTIONIZED DIPLOMACY AND TRAVELS SO GENEROUSLY, WITH DEDICATION, WITH SACRIFICE, AS A MESSENGER OF PEACE, AS WE WELCOME HIM ONCE MORE HERE AT THE QUIRINALE PALACE?

THIS IS THE THIRD TIME WE MEET. EXACTLY FIVE MONTHS AGO, MR. KISSINGER, JULY 5, AND TOMORROW IS NOVEMBER 5, TWO MEETINGS IN ROME -- ONE OF WHICH IS THIS ONE -- AND, IN BETWEEN, MY OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER MORO. AND TODAY'S MEETING -- A MEETING WHICH WE REQUESTED AND WHICH YOU HAVE SO KINDLY ACCEPTED AND WELCOMED -- IS A MEETING WHICH IS DUE TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, WHICH WILL OPEN TOMORROW AND TO WHICH YOU WILL CONTRIBUTE YOUR THOUGHT AND THE VIGOR AND STRENGTH OF THE NATION YOU REPRESENT. WELL, THAT CONFERENCE WILL MAKE CLEAR TO THE MINDS OF ALL, THE RESPONSIBLE LEADERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, HOW DRAMATIC THEIR COMMITMENT IS, AT A TRULY SIGNIFICANT AND INTERESTING MOMENT IN THE EVOLUTION OF HISTORY. FOR YEARS NOW STUDIES HAVE BEEN MADE -- AND ITALY GAVE ITS CONTRIBUTION WITH THE CLUB OF ROME, PECCEI AND OTHERS -- AND ALSO IN RECENT CONFERENCES AS THE ONE IN ROMANIA -- FOR A VERY LONG TIME THE DRAMATIC PLIGHT FORECAST FOR HUMAN-KIND AT THE EVE OF NEXT CENTURY HAS BEEN STUDIED THE WORLD OVER. THIS CONFERENCE MUST THEREFORE REALIZE WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITES OF THE MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND WHICH COUNTRY IN THIS REGARD HAS A MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY -- AND THAT IS HOUR COUNTRY, BUT ALSO MY COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH TO A LESSER EXTENT -- IN SUPPLYING POLITICAL WILL, MORAL STRENGTH, DETERMINATION, TOOLS, STRUCTURES AND MEANS TO OVERCOME THE WORLD'S HUNGER.

BEFORE RECEIVING YOU, MR. KISSINGER, I MET WITH ARGENTINA'S FOREIGN MINISTER AND WE REMARKED, WITH GREAT REGRET, THAT ARGENTINA IS NOT ABLE TO EXPORT ITS MEAT WHILE THERE IS A MEAT SHORTAGE IN OTHER WORLD AREAS, WHICH MEANS THAT THERE IS LACK OF ORGANIZATION. I ALSO MET MR. WALDHEIM WHO CALLED ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CONFERENCE -- SAYING WHAT I WILL TAKE THE LIBERTY OF SAYING TOMORROW IN BRINGING
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MY COUNTRY'S WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE -- THAT IS, THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF POLITICAL DECISION AND WILL, THEREFORE COOPERATION, COORDINATION, COLLABORATION AMONG ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. PRESIDENT FORD AND YOU, MR. KISSINGER, HAVE LAUNCHED THAT WORD, COOPERATION, AND YOU ARE ITS HERALD IN YOUR TRIPS THROUGHOUT ALL THE WORLD'S REGIONS. AND INDEED THE TWO PILLARS OF ITALIAN FOREIGN POLICY RESPOND TO THIS PURPOSE, TO THIS AIM OF COOPERATION: THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE,

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WHOSE ROLE YOU, WE, AND ALL THE MEMBER NATIONS HAVE ALWAYS
THOUGHT OF AS A DEFENSIVE ONE, AS WELL AS ONE OF EVOLUTION,
PROGRESS AND DETENTE; AND EUROPE, WHERE WE ARE STRUGGLING --
WITH UNFORTUNATELY, MOMENTS OF ARREST WHICH SADDEN AND WORRY
US -- TO SHAPE IN THIS OLD AND GREAT CONTINENT -- WHICH STILL
HAS SOMETHING TO SAY AND HAS TO WORK IN THE LIGHT OF ITS
GREAT TRADITION -- IN ORDER TO SHAPE A UNITED POLITICAL INSTI-
TUTION WHICH WOULD GO AGAINST NO ONE, AND SPECIALLY NOT
AGAINST AMERICA, BUT INSTEAD WOULD POSE ITSELF AHEAD OF AND
AT THE SIDE OF AMERICA TO WORK TOGETHER FOR DETENTE, FOR
PEACE, FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE.

MR. SECRETARY, MR. KISSINGER, IN YOUR TRIP YOU HAVE
TRAVELLED OVER THREE CONTINENTS: EUROPE, ASIA AND AFRICA,
A TRIP WHICH WAS TO END HERE IN ITALY (AS WE WERE SAYING
EARLIER IN PRIVATE) AND YOU WERE LONGING FOR PERHAPS A DAY
OF REST IN ITALY OR IN THE U.S., WHILE THIS IS ONLY A
PAUSE BECAUSE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS STILL REQUIRE THE
VIGOROUS CONTRIBUTION OF THE U.S., A CONTRIBUTION OF POISE,
OF STRENGTH, OF LOYALTY, OF VIGOR AND WILL. AND TOMORROW,
AFTER A TIRING DAY, YOU WILL RESUME YOUR JOURNEY, A VERY
NOBLE PILGRIMAGE FOR PEACE AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WORLD
SOLIDARITY. YOU WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY OUR HEARTFELT BEST
WISHES AS WELL AS BY THE REAFFIRMATION FROM ME PERSONALLY --
AND TOMORROW YOU WILL HEAR THIS REPEATED BY OUR FOREIGN MINI-
STER AND OUR PRIME MINISTER WHEN YOU MEET BUT WHO NOW HERE
JOIN ME IN WELCOMING YOU -- OF THE RENEWED STATEMENT OF
ITALY'S LOYALTY TO ITS FRIENDSHIP, THE STATEMENT THAT,
IN THE DIFFICULT FABRIC OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE, ITALY
IS AT THE SIDE OF THE U.S., OF COURSE IN THE MINOR POSITION
THAT HER POSSIBILITIES, HER CAPACITY, AND HER INTERNATIONAL
WEIGHT PERMIT. THESE STATEMENTS WILL ACCOMPANY YOU IN YOUR
MISSION FOR DETENTE. AND WHATEVER YOU DO FOR DETENTE
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ON THE WORLD LEVEL AMONG THE MAJOR POWERS, WHATEVER YOU DO
IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO PICK UP AGAIN THE THREADS OF PEACE --
THAT PEACE WHICH WE WERE FOLLOWING WITH GREAT INTEREST,
WHICH WE THOUGHT WAS FORTHCOMING AND WHICH KINDLES SO MUCH
TREPIDATION IN SPIRITS THE WORLD OVER -- YOU WILL BE
ACCOMPANIED BY OUR TRUST AND OUR SYMPATHY.

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 RSC-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

PRS-01 CPR-01 EUR-12 A-01 OPR-02 USIE-00 AGR-10

AID-05 EB-06 IO-10 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 SAM-01

NEA-10 /082 W
---------- 117650
O 051045Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7907

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SECTO 470

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF DINNER TOASTS BETWEEN PRESIDENT LEONE
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ON NOVEMBER 4, 1974

NSCE FOR GENERAL SCONWCROFT AND NESSEN

WITH THESE FEELINGS WE WELCOME YOU IN WARMTH AND FRIENDSHIP TO THIS PALACE. AND WE HAVE THE PLEASURE TO WELCOME MRS. KISSINGER WHOM YOU, HER HUSBAND, WHEN WE MET IN WASHINGTON PROMISED TO TAKE TO SEE THE SEVEN-HUNDRED-ROOM PALACE. AND I ANSWERED: "I HAVEN'T COUNTED THEM YET, AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE YEARS THAT GOD WILL ALLOW ME, IF HE WILL LET ME COMPLETE MY TURN, WILL BE ENOUGH TO COUNT THEM." BUT I ALSO ADDED: "MY BEDROOM IS VERY SMALL; THESE ROOMS ARE FOR THE GUESTS ONLY. AND ESPECIALLY WHEN THE GUESTS ARE AS CHARMING AS YOU, MR. AND MRS. KISSINGER, THESE DOORS ARE WIDE OPEN, THESE LIGHTS RECAPTURE THEIR OLD SPLENDOR, THESE HALLS RELIVE THE GREAT MOMENTS OF ITALY'S LIFE IN ORDER TO SAY TO YOU THAT WE, AS FRIENDS AND ALLIES, AS A PEOPLE PROUD OF THEIR FREE-DOM, THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND THEIR HISTORY, WE LOOK AT YOUR
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COUNTRY WITH SYMPATHY, WITH GREAT TRUST, WITH CONFIDENT EXPECTATION. WITH THESE FEELINGS, I ASK YOU, GENTLEMEN, TO JOIN ME IN RAISING OUR GLASSES TO THE HEALTH OF THE

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U.S. PRESIDENT, MR. FORD, AND HIS GRACIOUS WIFE TO WHOM WE SEND A SPECIAL GREETING OF BEST WISHES, AS WELL AS TO THE HEALTH, OF MR. KISSINGER TO THE SUCCESS OF HIS MISSION, TO THE GRACIOUS MRS. KISSINGER TO THE FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO PEOPLES. END QUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING IS RESPONSE BY SECRETARY:

QUOTE: MR. PRESIDENT, MRS. LEONE, MR. PRIME MINISTER, MR. PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE, EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MR. PRESIDENT, YOU MADE SOME VERY FRIENDLY REMARKS ABOUT THE PURPOSES OF MY TRIP, THE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES, AND IT IS TRUE. WHEN I COME TO ITALY I FEEL THAT I AM NOT IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, THAT I AM WITH FRIENDS WHO SHARE A COMMON DESTINY. WE FACE IN THE WEST RIGHT NOW A PROFOUND CRISIS. AND THE CRISIS IS NOT ENERGY OR INFLATION, IT IS WHETHER THE NATIONS WITH SIMILAR TRADITIONS AND COMMON VALUES CAN WORK TOGETHER TO MASTER THEIR DESTINY. IF THE NATIONS OF THE WEST WORK TOGETHER AS THEY HAVE FOR THE PAST GENERATION, THEN THE PROBLEMS THAT WE NOW FACE CAN BE TURNED INTO OPPORTUNITIES AND WE CAN BEGIN A WHOLE NEW PERIOD OF CREATIVITY. AND THAT IS WHAT THE UNITED STATES IS TRYING TO DO TOGETHER WITH ITS FRIENDS IN EUROPE AT THIS MOMENT. SO OCCASIONALLY I AM ASKED WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WILL HELP ITALY IN ITS DIFFICULTIES. BUT THAT IS THE WRONG WAY OF PUTTING THE QUESTION. OF COURSE WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE OUR DIFFICULTIES. BUT WE ARE NOT HELPING ITALY, WE ARE HELPING OURSELVES. THERE IS NO PART OF THE WESTERN COMMUNITY THAT CAN HAVE SETBACKS WITHOUT AFFECTING EVERY OTHER PART. AND THAT IS THE ATTITUDE WITH WHICH WE WILL WORK TOGETHER.

THE PRESIDENT SPOKE OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND IT IS AGAIN MY DESTINY THAT I HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM ON THIS BIGGEST PLATFORM. AND IT WILL TURN OUT THAT HE IS SAYING VERY MUCH WHAT I AM TRYING TO EXPRESS LESS ELOQUENTLY, THAT IS, I WILL EXPRESS IT LESS ELOQUENTLY. HE IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT:
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THE PROBLEM OF FOOD IS NOT A TECHNICAL PROBLEM. IT IS RIDICULOUS THAT THERE SHOULD BE SURPLUSES IN SOME AREAS, SHORTAGES IN SOME OTHER AREAS. IT IS THEREFORE ENTIRELY A QUESTION OF POLITICAL WILL AND POLITICAL IMAGINATION. THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: AND IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT IT SHOULD MEET IN ROME, WHICH THROUGHOUT ITS LONG AND GLORIOUS HISTORY HAS HAD TO LOOK AT THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG NATIONS. AND IN ITALY WITH ITS TRADITION OF HUMANITY AND COMPASSION. AND, SELFISHLY, I AM GLAD IT IS IN ITALY BECAUSE IT GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO

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SEE MY FRIENDS WITH WHOM IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO EXCHANGE IDEAS, AND FROM WHOM WE ALWAYS PROFIT. SO I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE PRESIDENT OF ITALY AND TO THE PERMANENT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES, AND TO MRS. LEONE. END QUOTE.

3. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED.KISSINGER

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